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ABSTRACT

As part of the overall evaluation of its journalism program, William Rainey Harper College (WRHC), in Palatine, Illinois, conducted a follow-up survey of students who had completed three or more journalism courses between 1985 and 1990 to determine current activities and perceptions of the program. Questionnaires were mailed to all 80 participants, yielding a 64% response rate. Study findings included the following: (1) compared to the general student population, former journalism students were high achievers and remained at WRHC longer; (2) while 60% of the respondents intended to attain an associate degree, 48% actually earned one; (3) 53% of the respondents were employed full-time, 33% were employed part-time, and only 4% of the unemployed were searching for employment; (4) 45% of those employed were in a field related to journalism, a figure slightly lower than the average for career alumni; (5) the average salary of those employed in journalism-related fields was $24,300, a figure considerably higher than their starting salary of $18,600, but slightly under the average salary for career alumni; (6) 44% of the employed respondents found their jobs on their own, 15% had the assistance of relatives and friends, and 15% were still employed with the same firm they worked for when they entered WRHC; (7) 3 in 5 respondents reported having met or being very close to meeting their career goals; and (8) 61% had continued their education, with 29% having achieved at least a bachelor's degree. The study report includes student comments and the questionnaire. (MAB)

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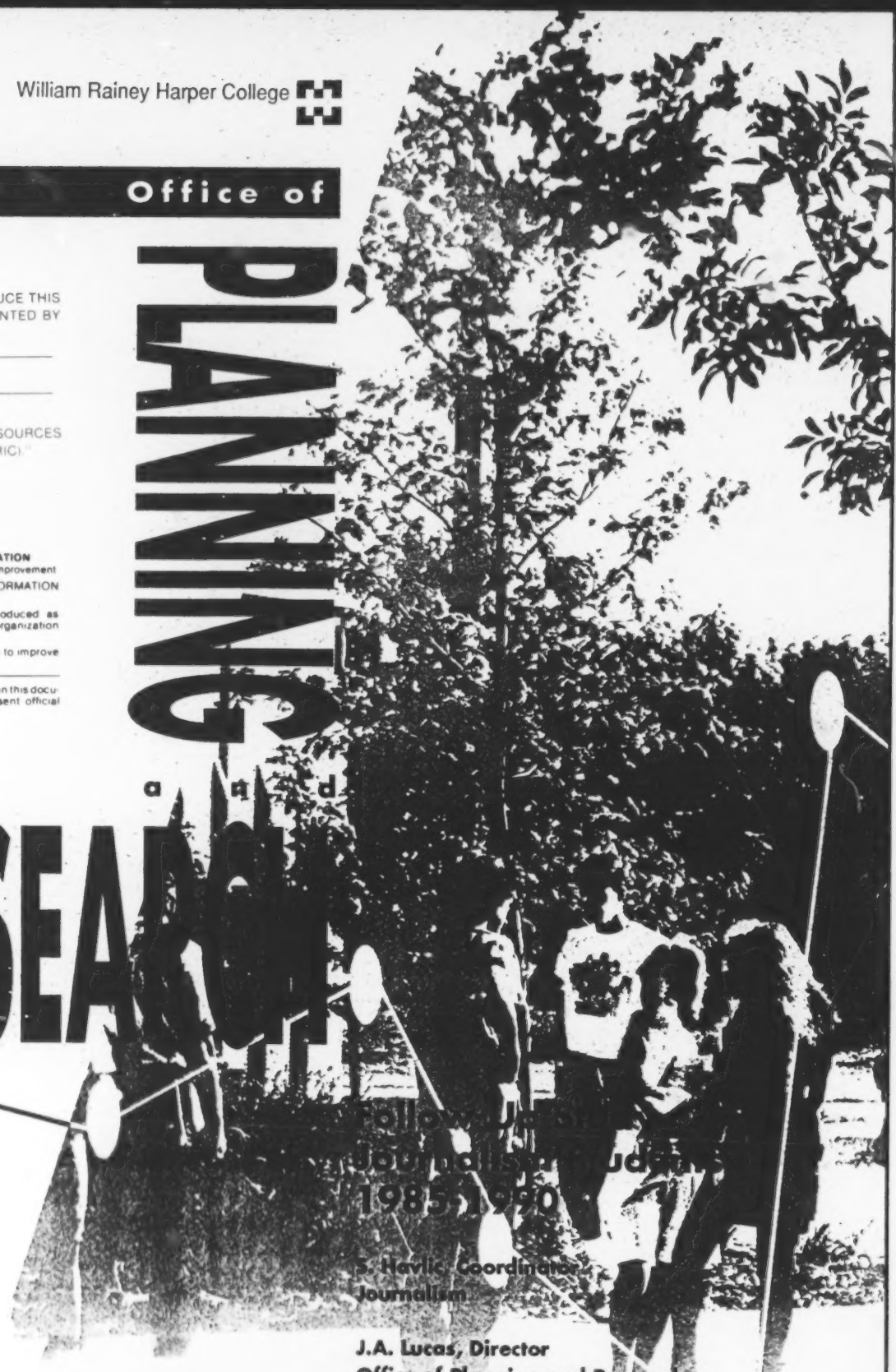

VOLUME XX, NO. 8
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Fall ... Journalism ... 1985-1990

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A B S T R A C T

STUDENTS WHO HAD COMPLETED 3 OR MORE JOURNALISM COURSES AT HARPER COLLEGE BETWEEN 1985-1990 WERE SURVEYED AND AFTER MULTIPLE FOLLOW-UP ATTEMPTS A 64 PERCENT RESPONSE RATE WAS ATTAINED. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT COMPARED TO THE GENERAL STUDENT POPULATION, THESE FORMER JOURNALISM STUDENTS WERE HIGH ACHIEVERS AND REMAINED AT HARPER A LONG TIME. COMPARED TO OTHER CAREER STUDENTS A HIGH PERCENT PLANNED TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION AFTER LEAVING HARPER. ALMOST A THIRD WERE NOT IN THEIR PREFERRED EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AND OVER HALF WERE EMPLOYED IN FIELDS UNRELATED TO JOURNALISM.

DESPITE THIS, THESE FORMER STUDENTS HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR THE PROGRAM AND CITED MANY BENEFITS THEY HAD RECEIVED.

THE SALARIES EARNED BY THOSE EMPLOYED IN JOURNALISM RELATED FIELDS WERE JUST SLIGHTLY BELOW THE AVERAGE FOR ALL CAREER ALUMNI. THEY ALSO TEND TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT AT VERY NEARBY LOCATIONS.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to follow-up former journalism students as a part of the Program Review process for the Journalism Program. The study was requested by the Coordinator of the Journalism Program.

METHODOLOGY AND POPULATION SURVEYED

All 80 former students who completed at least 3 journalism courses at Harper between 1985 and 1990 were included in the survey. The survey instrument shown in the appendix was developed jointly by the Office of Planning and Research and the Journalism Department. The survey was mailed to the survey population and after a second mailing and telephone calls to non-respondents, 51 completed surveys were obtained for a 64 percent response rate. This is a very good response rate for former students who have been gone for an average of 4 years. Information from Harper's student data base was also obtained on all of the survey population.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The survey population was 62 percent female and the average age at entry to Harper was 22-23 years of age. These students maintained a 2.90 GPA (above average for Harper students) and earned almost 50 credit hours on the average before leaving. The typical student was here at Harper for 4-5 years. Almost half (45%) came here with the intent of transferring while 23 percent were preparing for a career in Journalism and 18 percent were searching for a career or area of interest.

Initially 60 percent of the students intended to receive an associate degree from Harper but in the end only 48 percent actually earned an associated degree. Looking at the student's major area of study 26 percent were listed as transfer majors, 71 percent as journalism majors and 3 percent as other career majors. Among this survey population, 8 percent were listed as disabled and 8 percent as minority students.

The follow-up date indicated that 53 percent were employed full time, 33 percent were employed part time and 14 percent were not employed. Only 4 percent were unemployed and searching for employment. Some 45 percent of those employed were in a journalism related field. An analysis of their current status revealed that 69 percent were in a preferred situation. The 31 percent in a non-preferred situation included those not in a journalism related field but wanted to be, those employed part-time but wanted full-time work and those not employed who wanted to be employed. The average salary of those employed in a journalism related field is $24,300 which is considerably more than their starting salary of $18,600, but slightly under the average salary of all career alumni who have been away from Harper about 6 years. For the most part they are working close by with 70 percent being employed in the Harper District. The bulk of these former students who are employed found their jobs on their own (44%). Friends and relatives helped 17 percent while 15 percent work for the same firm where they worked when they first entered Harper College.

Three in five report they have met all or are very close to meeting their career goals. Goals not met center on degrees not yet achieved, writing not yet done or management positions in journalism not yet achieved along with a few other specific goals not attained. Sixteen respondents reported awards, promotions, or accomplishments achieves since leaving Harper. Well over half (61%) have continued their education since leaving Harper and 29 percent have already achieved at least a bachelors degree.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS (continued)

When asked to give comments and suggestions for the Journalism Program, 22 people gave glowing evaluations and only 3 gave neutral or mixed reviews. There were several suggestions. Four said there were not enough classes offered in the evening and 3 noted that more of a variety of journalism courses are needed. There were single suggestions that better transfer arrangements be made, advanced classes are often canceled, staggered class hours are inconvenient and the transition period produced disorganization for a year.

When asked what courses were most beneficial and to indicate the benefits received, 20 former students responded. The 2 courses cited most frequently were feature writing and newswriting although every course was cited at least once. Benefits received included improved writing skills, exposure to great faculty, useful experiences, help on the present job, help in getting new job, new tools to use and improved creativity. A total of 21 former students offered advice to today's journalism students.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

Compared to the General Student Population, these former journalism students were high achievers and remain at Harper a long time. Compared to other career students a high percent planned to continued their education after leaving Harper. Almost a third were not in their preferred employment situation and over half were employed in fields unrelated to journalism. Despite this, these former students had high praise for the program and cited many benefits they had received.

The salaries earned by those employed in journalism related fields were just slightly below the average for all career alumni. They also tend to seek employment at very nearby locations.

DETAILED RESULTS

Employment Situation	N	PCT
Employed full time	27	52.9
Employed part time by choice	14	27.5
Employed part time but prefer full time	3	5.9
Unemployed by choice	5	9.8
Searching for employment	2	3.9
Total	51	100.0

Relatedness of Job To Journalism	N	PCT
Identical	6	13.6
Closely related	6	13.6
Somewhat related	8	18.2
Not related but would prefer work in journalism field	13	29.6
Not related, by choice	11	25.0
Total	44	100.0

Preference for Existing Situation	N	PCT
Prefer present employment or unemployment situation	35	68.6
Do not prefer present employment or unemployment situation	16	31.4
Total	51	100.0

Salary of Those Employed Full Time

Salary Range	Those Employed In Jobs Related To Journalism N	Those Employed In Jobs Related To Journalism PCT	Those Employed in Jobs Unrelated To Journalism N	Those Employed in Jobs Unrelated To Journalism PCT	Total N	Total PCT
$15,000 - $19,999	2	18.2	2	16.7	4	17.4
$20,000 - $24,999	5	45.4	4	33.3	9	39.1
$25,000 - $29,999	2	18.2	3	25.0	5	21.7
$30,000 - $34,999	2	18.2	1	8.3	3	13.1
$35,000 - $39,999	0	0	2	16.7	2	8.7
Total	11	100.0	12	100.0	23	100.0
Median	$23,000		$24,375		$23,889	
Mean	$24,318		$26,250		$25,326	

Starting Salary: Mean = $18,581 Median = $17,000

All Career Alumni 6 years after leaving Harper: Mean = $26,452 Median = $23,345

Employment Location	Distance Index	N	PCT
Downtown Chicago	2	4	10.0
Outer fringes of Chicago	2	3	7.5
Northwest suburban area	0	28	70.0
Other Chicago area suburbs	1	3	7.5
Within 40-100 miles of Chicago	3	1	2.5
In Illinois, more than 100 miles from Chicago	4	1	2.5
Outside Illinois	5	1	0
Total		40	100.0

Average distance index from Harper College .525

How Former Student Found Their Job	N	PCT
Found the job on their own	18	43.9
A friend or relative helped	7	17.1
Working at the same job as when they first enrolled at Harper	6	14.6
Used an employment agency	3	7.3
Another college helped	2	4.9
Journalism coordinator helped	1	2.5
Employer called Journalism Department asking for students to interview	1	2.5
Temporary employment service	1	2.4
Newspaper ad	1	2.4
Former employer	1	2.4
Total	41	100.0

Extent to Which Students Have Met Course Goals	N	PCT
Have met all career goals	5	10.6
Very close to meeting career goals	23	49.0
Have not met career goals at all	19	40.4
Total	47	100.0

Most Important Goals Which Student Has Yet to Achieve	N
Obtain a bachelors degree	5
Love what they do - try free-lance first	1
Write in a creative capacity for advertising or design firm	1
Wants to write	1
Still wants to write free-lance and short stories	1
Finish associate degree	1
Obtain a full-time position with newspaper and eventually become an editor	1
Reach upper management position at a newspaper or magazine	1
Become a professional disc jockey on radio	1
Finish journalism career	1
Become a doctor by the age of 40	1
Decide on a career path	1
Goal not stated	3
Total	19

Personal Awards, Promotions, or
Accomplishments Since Leaving Harper

Sixteen respondents reported awards, promotions or accomplishments:

- Small academic scholarships - being on the cross country team - have a good job!
- Editor - winter edition of "Common Knowledge"
- Newsletter for School for New Learning, DePaul University. Graduated DePaul University, June 14, 1992.
- Helped boss edit a book he wrote.
- Several commendations for suggestions that save money.
- Working toward PGA status in golfing

Personal Awards, Promotions, or
Accomplishments Since Leaving Harper (continued)

- Have had several articles published since early last year.
- Accelerated grades and Dean's list at Columbia College.
- Working closely with learning disabilities.
- Private scholarships to Columbia College
- Script scholarship
- While in school, made Phi Theta Kapa and at the present time have produced and hosted a number of cable TV shows - written some free-lance articles and ads - and done several speaking presentations to groups such as the U.S. Postal Inspectors, Toastmasters, and various clubs and organizations.
- Won journalism award on the job.
- Training within company, coursework completing masters in journalism.
- Promotion and increase in salary.
- Edited the company newspaper for Federal Express Corp. in Buffalo Grove, Illinois.
- Received a full scholarship at Roosevelt University where student is presently working towards a bachelors in political science.

Educational Achievements Since Leaving Harper	N	PCT
Have not taken any college work	19	38.8
Have continued their education but have not achieved a bachelors degree	16	32.7
Have continued their education and have achieved a bachelors degree	11	22.4
Have continued their education and achieved a masters degree or a professional degree	3	6.1
Total	49	100.0

Majors and Colleges of Those Who Have Continued Their
Education but Who Have Not Achieved a Bachelors Degree Yet

- National - Louis University - Management
- Eastern Illinois University - Journalism
- Chicago Columbia College - Advertising
- Roosevelt - Marketing
- Columbia College, Chicago - Radio
- University of Illinois - Communications
- Columbia College - Magazine Journalism
- Illinois State - Mass Communication - Journalism
- Northern Illinois University - Journalism
- Roosevelt University - Business Administration
- Roosevelt University - Public Relations
- Roosevelt University - Print Journalism
- Loyola - Journalism
- Northern - Liberal Arts
- Roosevelt University - Political Science

Majors, Colleges and Degrees of Those Who Have Continued
Their Education and Have Achieved at Least a Bachelors Degree

- Covenant College - History
- DePaul University - Liberal Arts - Journalism - B.A.
- Northern Illinois University - Journalism and Public Relations
- Western Illinois University - B.A. - Mass Communications, Minor - Journalism
- DePaul University - Communications - B.A. and Political Science - Double Minor
- Northern Illinois - Special Education - B.A. and Public Administration - Masters
- Illinois State University - Mass Communications/Journalism Emp.
- Columbia - Marketing
- Eastern Illinois University - Journalism - Bachelors of Arts
- Roosevelt - Masters in Science and Journalism
- Northern - Journalism B.A.
- Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois - B.A. Communications. Currently a full-time law student at the John Marshall Law School, Chicago.
- Unknown - B.S.

Name and Address of Employer

- Phil Bennett, 502 West Euclid, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60070 - School Teacher
- Bragaw Public Relation Services, 800 E. Northwest Highway, Palatine, Illinois 60067, Editorial Assistant
- Carpet Consultants, Itasca - Clerk
- United States Postal Service, 7101 W. Gunnison, Harwood Hgts., Ill. 60656 - Mail Handler.
- Arlington Heights - Assistant Manager of Golf
- Enesco Corp., Elk Grove - Inside Sales
- Jewel Food Stores, 1500 S. Lee Street, Des Plaines - Checker
- Sears Mortgage Corp., Vernon Hills - Closer
- Expediters Intern'l., Wood Dale - Letter of Credit Specialist, P/T and American Concrete Pavement Association, Arlington Heights - Public Relations Asst., P/T
- Sir Speedy Printing Center, 525 W. Wise Rd., Schaumburg, 60193-3909 - Asst. Mgr.
- Motorola, Inc., 1301 E. Algonquin Road, Schaumburg, 60196 - Admin. Assistant
- Self-Employed - At Home - Consultant
- Harper College - Clerk/Typist - Business/Social Science Division
- G.C. Services, 300 Martingale Road, Schaumburg, 60173, Suite 670 - Account Rep.
- Ameritech Services, 2000 W. Ameritech Center Dr., Hoffman Estates - Expediter
- The Typestylist, 1061 Lake Cook Road, Wheeling, 60090 - Typesetter/Manager
- Service Merchandise, Elgin - Refund Clerk
- School District No. 54, 524 E. Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg - Instructional Asst.
- Chicago Litho Plate Companies, Ltd., 450 Windy Point Dr., Glendale Heights - Lithographer
- Camadon, Chicago - Copy and Sales Representative
- Jannotta Bray and Assoc., Northbrook - Client Services Coordinator
- First Analyist Corp., Chicago - Assistant Research Editor
- McDonalds, 522 W. Golf Road, Schaumburg - Crew Trainer - Swing Manager in March
- Promotional Communications, Inverness - Account Coordinator
- Currently 2 months from completing bachelor's program at ISU - work on campus as night manager.
- The TIMES, 601 W. 45th Ave., Munster, Indiana 46321 - Display Editor
- Northern Illinois University - Librarian Assistant
- British Airways, O'Hare Airport - Customer Service Agent
- Grand Fame, Arlington Heights - Retail
- Cahners Publishing Co., 1350 E. Touhy Ave., Des Plaines - Production Editor

Name and Address of Employer (continued)

- Pioneer Press, 200 James St., Barrington (Since 1/91) - Was with the Pulitzer-Lerner Group, writing the Schaumburg Notebook for their "Voice" publication, from 4/83 until 11/90. Also been contracting with high school districts Nos. 211 and 214 since 1981. Offer classes through their adult education departments and also contract with the open campus department of the College of DuPage.
  - Titles: Neighborhood Columnist (stringer), Contracting Instructor for a "How to Get Free Publicity" class that is based on my former TV appearances, radio and print interviews, as well as experiences as a writer and cable TV producer.
- Limited Express, Mt. Prospect - Sales Associate
- Grant/Jocaby Advertising - Account Executive
- Delivery Salesman/Student
- United Parcel, 2525 Shermer, Northbrook - Supervisor/Human Resources
- New Era Optical, Chicago - Advertising Assistant
- Jim Beam, Deerfield - Executive Secretary
- Harper College - Editor/Writer
- Adron Industries, 2385 Hammond Dr., No. 5, Schaumburg - Office Manager

If Not in Journalism Now, Name of Former Journalism Employer

- Western University - Photography, and Cable Vision/Internship
- Life Newspaper of Downers Grove, Paddock Publications/Daily Herald - Sports Writer
- Daily Herald - Wrote for Business and Finance - Correspondent
- NIR - Reporter
- Fibercraft Materials, Niles - Editorial Assistant
- Northern Illinois University - Reporter/part-time
- Curtis Production, Chicago - Intern/part-time
- Channel 6 - Elk Grove Village - Intern/part-time
- Still at Harper College
- Free-Lance Writing - Trade publications
- Daily Herald, Arlington Heights - Stringer/City Desk

Comments and Suggestions for Journalism Program at Harper College

Evaluation: 19--Very positive
3--Neutral or Mixed Review

Suggestions: 4--Not enough classes offered in the evening
3--More of a variety of Journalism courses needed
1--Need better transfer arrangement
1--Transition time produced disorganization
1--Advanced classes often canceled
1--Staggered hours of some classes inconvenient

- Enjoyed the classes and professors. Wished it had the radio/TV broadcasting when I was attending.
- Harper's Journalism curriculum stresses professional, practical hands-on skills such as writing, editing, and reporting. Students who graduate from the program will find few surprises in terms of professional expectations.
- The 3 classes I took helped me out a lot.
- I thought it was great! I liked the variety.
- Personalized attention from the staff is a must in an effective program. The Journalism Program had an excellent staff and a great program. Learned how to communicate among my peers and to my audience from Susanne and the other professors.

Comments and Suggestions for Journalism Program at Harper College (continued)

- Mr. Roepken was the best! Maybe a little different, but knew his stuff. I think the program was great and very beneficial.
- Mr. Roepken was, and probably still is, the best professor.
- Enjoyed the classes I took - they were both interesting and informative. Try to gear the higher level classes with the night students in mind and ran into a problem being only a night student that some of the upper level courses were not available then.
- I thoroughly enjoyed Harper's program - it gave me a lot of ideas on getting started in the field as well as different avenues to pursue.
- I loved the Journalism Program at Harper. The teachers were much better than the ones I had at ISU.
- Like the program - very thorough in field but it underwent change while I was there. Was a little unorganized - only AAS offering is limiting. Compact agreement would be nice as in many other programs.
- Very thorough, I enjoyed them. But I wanted to get into promotion.
- Harper's Department of Journalism did not have very many courses to offer when I went there, but I cannot complain about the courses I took.
- The addition of Macintosh computers is a huge step forward. The future of newspapers and magazines depends on pagination. I believe someday, instead of newspapers, readers will have computers at home and will be able to call up paginated pages.
- It taught me a lot of self-confidence in my ideas and writing.
- I thought the program was great!
- The only problem with the "J" program at Harper at the time I attended was the difficulty in taking classes. Most were scheduled for day students. In addition, my present job (Production Editor) would not qualify for class credit.
- I only wish I could make the time to take more classes. I enjoyed, and benefitted from each and every one that I took. I am pleased to see that some are offered in the evening so you may see me yet. On the other hand, I would like to CLEP out of fundamentals. I don't think I need it.
- More class selection time variety - the teaching has ranged from terrible to excellent - find some good instructors and do what it takes to keep them!
- The Journalism Program at Harper is fantastic. The writing skills I have learned helped me through College and is helping me now in law school.
- I loved it. The biggest problem that I found was that the more advanced classes were frequently canceled due to lack of enrollment. Also, the staggered times of classes was difficult, e.g., one class might meet 9-10 in one day and 10-12 on another - tough for scheduling.
- Did not receive an AA in Journalism, I received an AA in Arts - however, I did take a majority of the classes in the JNM Program. I enjoyed them - working with the computers was great experience and putting together the magazine was fun!

How Specific Journalism Classes at Harper Have Benefited Former Students

Most Beneficial:

9--Feature Writing	2--Externship
9--Newswriting	1--Fundamentals
4--Media Adjuncts	1--Cannot Remember
4--Copy Editing	3--All
3--Radio/T.F.	

Benefits Received:

4--Improved writing skills
4--Exposure to great faculty
4--Great experience
3--Helped on present job
2--Helped get a job
2--Provided tools
2--Improved creativity
1--Encouragement
1--Opened new horizons
1--Sparked interest in Journalism

How Specific Journalism Classes at Harper Have Benefited Former Students

Comments

- The basic journalism classes - helped me order my writing from most important first to least important material, last.
- Tough question - most of the classes have been beneficial especially those classes where writing skills were stressed, i.e., feature writing, newswriting and copy editing.
- The radio and television news course gave me the opportunity to learn the basics. It's helping me out quite a bit since I am starting work at the station at Eastern.
- Feature writing - liked the personal approach media adjuncts - variety, externship, the experience.
- Media adjuncts and TV/Radio courses benefited me the most out of the curriculum. Both courses received different types of media and the many aspects of communication offered today.
- All benefited me because they were well taught and enabled me to get out and experience my chosen field before graduating.
- News writing and reporting
- The course where we submitted articles to magazines - helped me understand and utilize research tools and practice interviewing techniques.
- Having not completed the program I can only comment on the classes I took - the most beneficial was feature writing - interesting class and has since parlayed into an income - not solely - producing endeavors.
- Cannot remember specific classes.
- Radio and TV a new challenge for me. I am mostly print, copy editing, newswriting, feature writing - all helpful and challenging.
- Feature writing allowed me to use my imagination. Also, I really got a solid grasp of the feature writing style.
- "Newswriting I" because it sparked my interest in journalism. "Media Adjuncts" because that is where I learned the basics of design.
- All of my classes benefited me but I especially like my feature writing class because I had a great teacher!
- The newswriting and feature writing classes were most beneficial. I copied it on a limited basis, so both classes helped me "On the Job."
- Newswriting and reporting, and every other program that I took that you offered. Why? Because they taught me what I did not know, even though I have been working as a stringer. It helped me to do my job even better.
- Copy editing with Sue Dawson - News reporting with Mary Rowitz - both instructors were very knowledgeable, helpful, prepared for class and always willing to go the extra mill to prepare you in every aspect of their class.
- The internship program helped me gain work experience. Newswriting helped me to write quickly while typing instead of on paper first and concisely. PL and ADV was a great class.
- Newswriting - helped tighten my writing and give it more impact. Also, it taught me usable formulae for various news treatments. Feature writing - Fun! Very helpful for creativity. Enjoyable!
- I'd say that copy editing probably benefited me the most. It was a practical learning experience and one that has helped me in my everyday life.
- The externship class was helpful. The intensive work we did on our resumes, and the practice we got on interviewing was terrific.

Best Advice for Today's Journalism Students

- Be inquisitive - ask your professors a lot of questions about new ideas/ strategies for doing things.
- Get an internship or apprenticeship in your planned profession, if possible, or at least in an area that will give you an opportunity to strengthen skills - writing, production.
- Get involved in either the radio or newspaper. I did not have that much time since I needed to work, but I wish I could have found more time.
- Try to gain experience while you are still in school - I was a stringer for the Daily Herald - experience is very important.
- Never skip an assignment and save all of your work. I use my homework as references so I don't make the same mistakes in the real world. It can be costly.
- To work closely with teachers and the school you intend to go on to. If not planning to go on get as much experience in your field as possible. Work on the newspaper.
- Listen to those who have already done what you are about to do.
- Keep at it, work hard - journalism is a competitive field - be it marketing, advertising or news writing - whatever - be persistent - good things are bound to come of it!
- The teachers are better at Harper than at most 4-year schools, and they take the time to teach and talk to you about things.
- Be ready to work. Much outside work involved. You need the basics of journalism for every job - communication skills are invaluable. Take the extra effort to be involved in newspaper, radio station or TV. Also learn the computer, you'll be using one in the real world.
- There are many fields which are related to Journalism. Plus, writing experience always is essential.
- Get your associate degree and continue your education.
- Learn as much as you can in class, but most importantly, work at the College newspaper. That's where you'll really learn about the profession.
- Stick with the field - don't get discouraged through the tough times - mainly the money!
- Listen hard and put everything you can into your work.
- My advice would hold true for any profession -- do your best, work your hardest at developing your skills. The habits and patterns you establish in school will carry forth into the work world.
- Taking the Journalism Program will open up new avenues and opportunities that they may have never dreamed of - don't get discouraged by all the homework, and assignments. It will all come in handy at some point in the future. Being able to write and speak well opens up unlimited opportunities. Whoever said, "The pen is mightier than the sword," was right!
- Learn from the real world - the book is always a very limited teaching tool in journalism courses - with the exception of the history and some process steps.
- Take advantage of internships. If interested in editorial journalism, try to be a stringer at the Herald. It's a great experience.
- Get in there and learn as much as you can about computers/technology. Then tighten writing with strong verbs (omit "to be" verbs) and brush up on editing skills.
- My best advice would be to get involved in as much as you can and write, write, and write! Get involved with the Harbinger (if time permits) the more practice and the more experience you can get the better. Also, start a portfolio! Throw whatever you've got into it - you can sort the best out later -- save everything!

Main Frame Information on Journalism Students Attending
Between Fall 1985 and Spring 1990 and Took at Least 3 Journalism Classes

	Total	Percent
Number of Students	80	100.0
Average GPA -- 2.90		
GPA's 3.00 or above	32	40.0
GPA's under 2.00	3	3.8
Average Cumulative Hours		
Hours Attempted	49.70	
Hours Earned	49.53	
Gender		
Male	30	37.5
Female	50	52.5
Average Age at First Semester -- 22.2		
Age under 21	53	66.3
Age 21 and over	27	33.8
Registered Until:		
At least 2 semesters, first year	3	3.8
2 years later	5	6.3
3 years later	20	25.0
4 years later	17	21.3
5 years later	12	15.0
6 years later	6	7.5
7 years later	2	2.5
8 years later	2	2.5
9 years later	3	3.8
10 years later	2	2.5
11 years later	1	1.3
12 years later	1	1.3
13 years or more	6	7.5
Reason Attending		
Future job	16	22.5
Improve job skills	3	4.2
Explore courses	13	18.3
Prepare for transfer	32	45.1
Review basic skills	2	2.8
Personal interest	2	2.8
Other intent	3	4.2
First Quarter	18	29.5
Second Quarter	19	31.1
Third Quarter	21	34.4
Fourth Quarter	3	4.9
Degree Intent		
Degree	46	57.5
Certificate	2	2.5
No Degree	32	40.0

Main Frame Information on Journalism Students Attending
Between Fall 1985 and Spring 1990 and Took at Least 3 Journalism Classes (cont'd)

	N	PCT
Disabled		
Yes	6	7.5
No	74	92.5
Race/Ethinic		
Asian, Pacific Islands	2	2.7
American Indian	1	1.4
Hispanic American	3	4.1
White American	68	91.9
Unspecified/Refused	6	
Degree Earned:		
No	42	52.5
Yes	38	47.5
Degree Status - By Hours		
No Degree	42	52.5
Less than 12	2	2.5
Between 13-23	4	5.0
Between 24-35	10	12.5
Between 36-47	16	20.0
48 or More	10	12.5
Degree Earned	38	47.5
48 and More	34	42.5
Under 48	4	5.0
Average ACT Score --- 17.7		
Type of Major		
Career*	59*	73.8
Transfer	21	26.3

* 57 or 59 are Journalism Majors -- 71.0 Percent

A P P E N D I X

- Cover Letter
- Survey Instrument

William Rainey Harper College
1200 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067-7398
708-397-3000

Spring 1992

Dear Former Journalism Student:

What have you been doing? We'd really like to know!

We are very interested in learning about your accomplishments since leaving Harper College. So, we have composed a little survey in hopes of catching up on your endeavors. Not only will this help us plan for the future, but our tyro journalists are very interested to see what former graduates of the program are doing now.

Also, we are in the process of creating a newsletter issue to keep you informed on happenings in the Journalism Program and what graduates are doing now. A current mailing list update is necessary so be sure to fill in the last item on the survey.

Please take a little time to answer some questions and mail the survey back in the self-addressed envelope which is enclosed for your convenience. Thank you and take care,

Very truly yours,

Susanne Havlic

Susanne Havlic
Associate Professor/Coordinator

jc
Enclosures

SURVEY OF FORMER HARPER COLLEGE JOURNALISM STUDENTS

1- What is your current employment situation? Check (x) one.

_____ A. I am employed full time
_____ B. I am employed part time by choice
_____ C. I am employed part time but would prefer full time.
_____ D. I am unemployed by choice
_____ E. I am searching for employment

2- Name and address of employer (or self, if self-employed).

_____

_____

_____

Job Title_____

3- How is your present job related to your major field (Journalism) and what you prepared for at Harper? Check (x) one.

_____ A. It is identical.
_____ B. It is closely related.
_____ C. It is somewhat related.
_____ D. It is not related but I would prefer working in the journalism field.
_____ E. It is not related, by choice.

4- If you are not now working the journalism field but once did after leaving Harper, please list your former employer and your job title.

_____

_____

_____

Job Title_____

5- What is your current salary range? Check (x) one only if you are employed full time.

_____ A. $ 5,000 - $ 6,999 per year
_____ B. $ 7,000 - $ 8,999 per year
_____ C. $ 9,000 - $ 9,999 per year
_____ D. $10,000 - $11,999 per year
_____ E. $12,000 - $14,999 per year
_____ F. $15,000 - $19,999 per year
_____ G. $20,000 - $24,999 per year
_____ H. $25,000 - $29,999 per year
_____ I. $30,000 - $34,999 per year
_____ J. $35,000 - $39,999 per year
_____ K. $40,000 - $49,999 per year
_____ L. $50,000 - $59,999 per year
_____ M. $60,000 - $70,000 per year
_____ N. Over $70,000

6- What was your salary range your first year after leaving Harper?

_____

7- In what geographic area do you work? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Downtown Chicago
_____ B. Outer fringes of Chicago city limits
_____ C. Northwest suburban area
_____ D. Other Chicago area suburbs
_____ E. Within 40 to 100 miles of Chicago
_____ F. In Illinois, more than 100 miles from Chicago
_____ G. Outside of Illinois - Please specify _____
_____

8- How did you find your job? Check (x) one.

_____ A. Harper Placement Office helped me find it.
_____ B. Coordinator of the program helped me find it.
_____ C. Another faculty member helped me.
_____ D. A friend helped me.
_____ E. Found the job through another source (specify)_____
_____
_____
_____ F. I found the job on my own.
_____ G. I am working on the same job which I had when enrolled at Harper and therefore I have not looked for a job since leaving Harper.
_____ H. I used an employment agency

9- Have you met your career goals? Check (x) one.
_____ A. Not at all. Which goals are most important for you to achieve? _____
_____
_____
_____ B. I am very close to meeting them.
_____ C. Yes, I have met them.
_____ D. Yes, I have met them and have gone beyond them.

10- Please list any personal awards, promotions, or accomplishments you have achieved since leaving Harper._____
_____
_____
_____

11- What have your educational achievements been since leaving Harper?

_____ A. I have not taken any college courses since leaving Harper.
_____ B. I have continued my education but haven't achieved a bachelor's degree.
School_____ Major Field_____
_____ C. I have achieved a bachelor's degree or higher.
School_____ Major Field and Degree_____
_____

12- Please comment on the Journalism Program at Harper -- Suggestions are more than welcome._____

_____

_____

_____

13- What specific classes in the Journalism Program benefited you, and why?_____

_____

_____

_____

14- What would be your best advice to journalism students today at Harper?_____

_____

_____

_____

15- Please list your full name (new one, if married), your present mailing address, and if you could, please send (under separate cover) an 8"x10" glossy of you at work along with any exciting personal happenings - family, children, travel, etc._____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

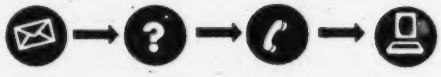
Telephone Number (Optional) Business:_____

Home:_____

WE APPRECIATE YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS SURVEY - YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE PROGRAM!

William Rainey Harper College
1200 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067-7398

Office
of
Planning
and
Research



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